

THE BOOK OF

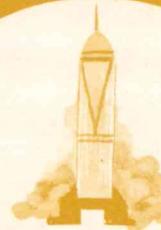
# A

This book is all about ants and autos, armadillos and  
airplanes, and lots of other exciting A's.

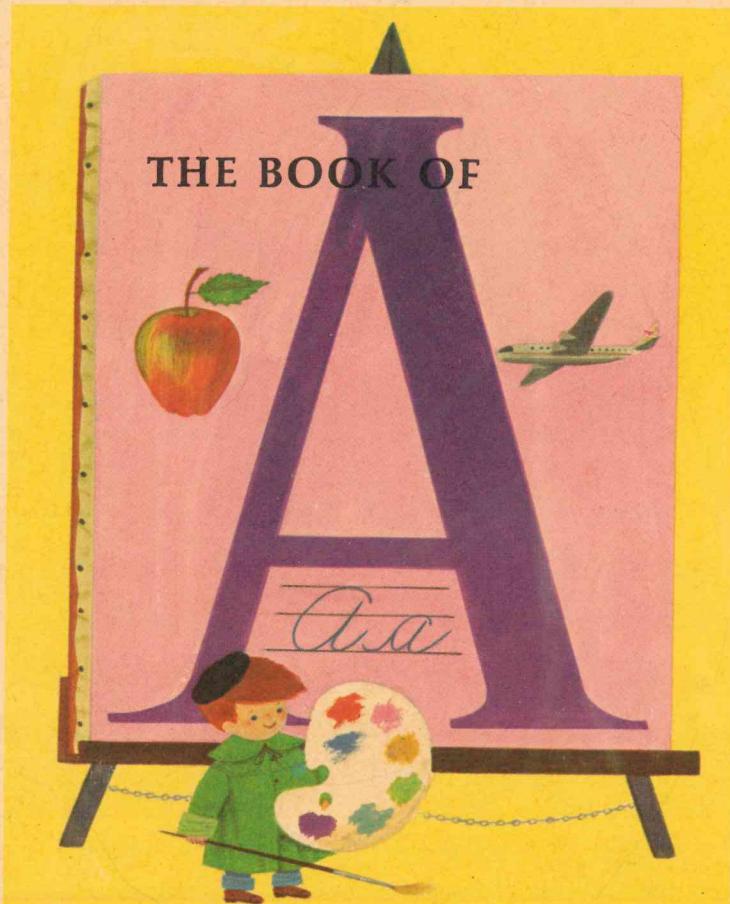
a Golden Book



This  
Golden Book  
belongs to



# MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY



CONSULTANT · BERTHA MORRIS PARKER

BY JANE WERNER WATSON · PICTURES BY  
WILLIAM DUGAN · GOLDEN PRESS · NEW YORK

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# foreword

No stage of a child's education is as important as the beginning. The three-year-old child, able to walk and therefore to explore, able to talk and therefore to ask questions, is a living bundle of curiosity about everything around him. For the next few years, the period just before and after starting school and learning to read, it is literally impossible for a child to learn too much. At this stage, learning is as natural as breathing. Later on come the more formal aspects of education, exercises and tests, assignments and homework, but from three to eight learning is life itself. The 16 volumes of **My FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY**, with their more than 400 pages of text and 1,500 illustrations, have been meticulously planned both to arouse and satisfy the thirst for knowledge of this age group.

When *The Golden Book Encyclopedia* was first presented to the public, the publishers were gratified to receive an unusually large number of letters from parents telling how much their children liked it. An interesting sidelight of many of these letters was that, despite the fact that *The Golden Book Encyclopedia* was designed for children from eight to twelve, many parents found that their younger children, even those who could not read, found it just as fascinating as the older ones. Some parents even bought two sets. Why, they asked,



could not a similar group of books be planned especially for these younger children? **MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY**, after five years of planning, is the result of this interest.

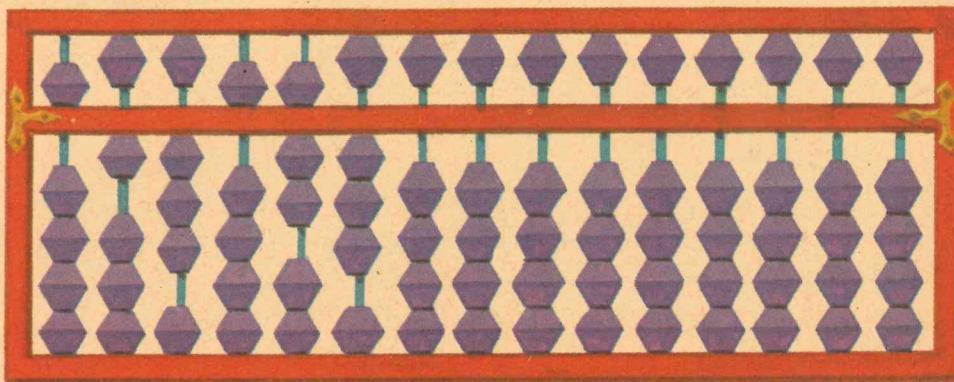
Jane Werner Watson, the author of over a hundred Golden Books, including the best-selling *Golden History of the World* and *The New Golden Encyclopedia*, was asked to prepare the text. A writer with the rare ability to communicate successfully with the very young, Mrs. Watson has managed to present a great deal of basically complex information in a way that will fascinate children as much as their favorite bedtime story.

The chief consultant for the **LEARNING LIBRARY** has been Dr. Bertha Morris Parker, herself a pioneer in writing non-fiction for very young children and author of the famous *Golden Book Encyclopedia*. Dr. Parker has checked every word of the text to insure that it is readable, interesting, informative, and accurate. The full-color illustrations by William Dugan were carefully executed to both reflect and augment the information given in the text. They are also, we think you will agree, delightful in themselves.

**MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY** has been printed and bound with the distinction expected of all Golden Books. Our best hope for these volumes is that over the years they become dog-eared and thoroughly used up. That is the surest sign of a truly successful children's book.

—THE PUBLISHERS

# abacus

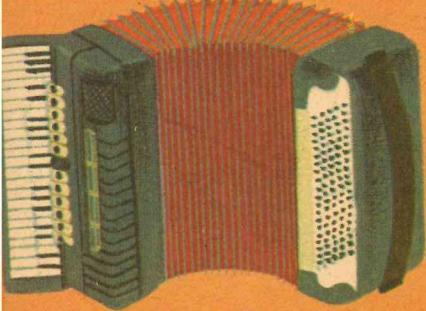


An abacus has beads on wires.  
Some beads stand for 1.  
Some beads stand for 10.  
Some beads stand  
for other numbers.  
People in many lands count  
and do arithmetic  
on an abacus.

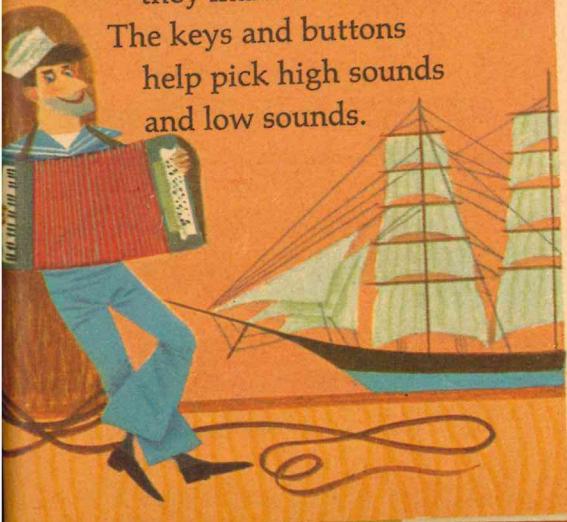
They move the beads  
on the wires.  
They add.  
They subtract.  
They do many things  
with numbers  
by moving the beads  
on the abacus.



# accordion



An accordion is  
for making music.  
Pull it out. You let air in.  
Push it together.   
You push air out.  
As the air goes out,  
it moves little metal blades.  
These are called reeds.  
When they move,  
they make sounds.  
The keys and buttons  
help pick high sounds  
and low sounds.



# acrobat

An acrobat is strong and nimble.  
He can do many tricks  
with his body.  
He must exercise.  
He must eat well.  
He must practice each trick  
many times.  
Thus he learns to do it well.



# air



Air is all around us.  
We breathe it all the time.  
We do not see air.  
But we feel it move.

Sometimes air moves lightly.

We call it a breeze.

Sometimes air moves fast.

We call it a wind.

Moving air gives us  
our weather.

(Look up *weather* in the W book.)

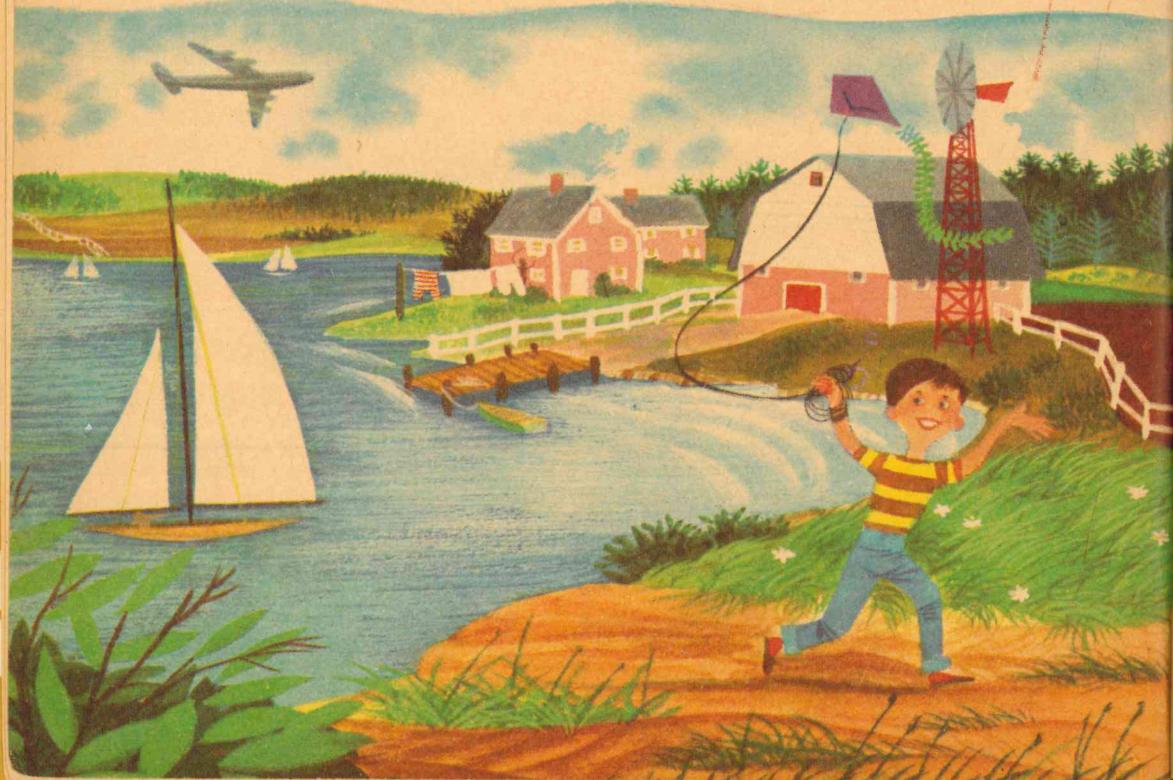
Sometimes air helps us.

It turns windmills.

It holds up airplanes.

It pushes sailboats  
over the water.

You can see air helping  
in the picture below.

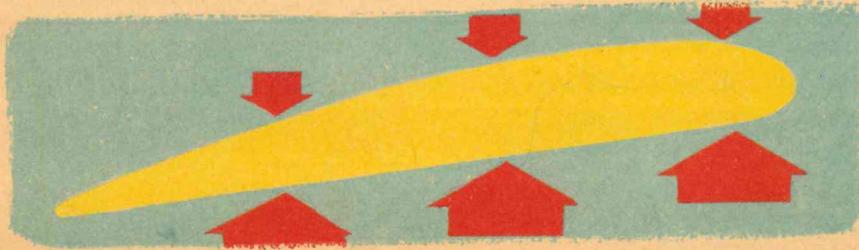


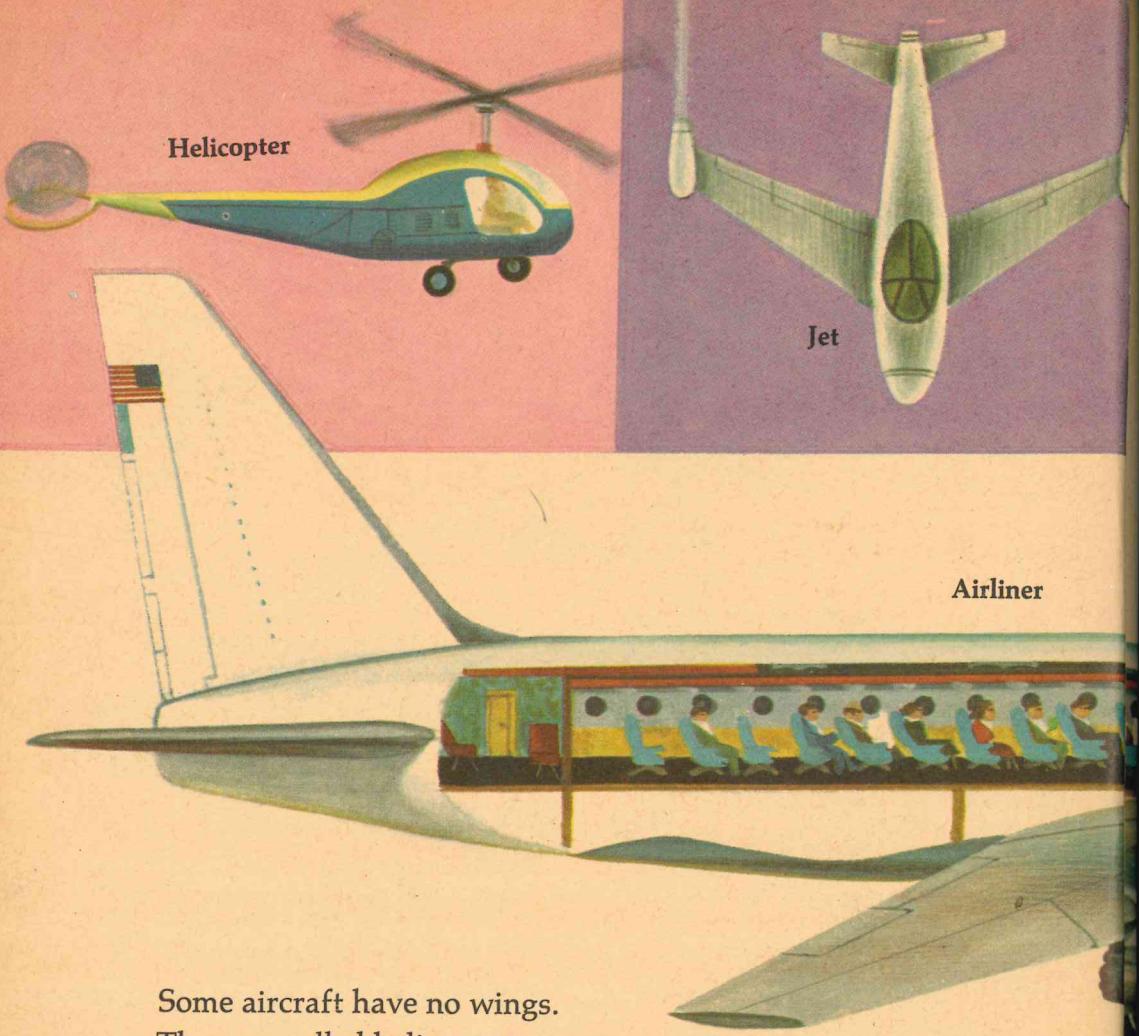
# aircraft



Airplanes fly in the air.  
Many airplanes  
have propellers.  
The motors turn  
the propellers.  
The propellers turn very fast.  
They turn so fast  
that it is hard to see  
their curved blades.  
The propeller blades bite  
into the air ahead.

They pull the airplane forward.  
Airplanes have wings.  
Air pushes down on the wings  
from above.  
Air pushes up on the wings  
from below.  
The shape of the wings  
makes the air push up  
more than down.  
The air holds  
the airplane up.





Some aircraft have no wings.

They are called helicopters.

A helicopter has

a very large propeller on top.

This is called a rotor.

The rotor goes around

very fast.

It pulls the helicopter  
into the air.

Some planes have jet engines.

Hot gas pours out of the jets.

The hot gas pushes

the airplane ahead.

Jet planes fly very, very fast.

Jet planes fly very, very high.

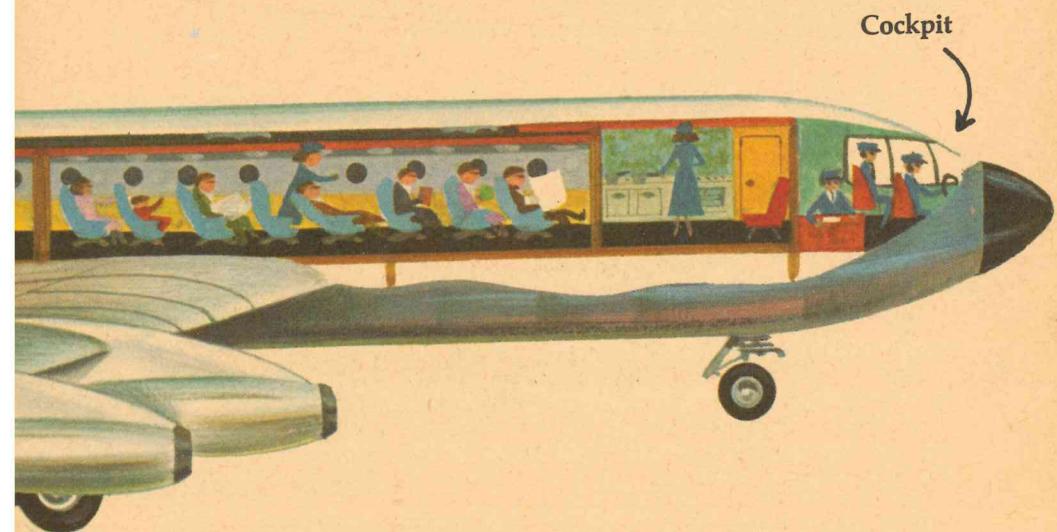
The man who flies an airplane  
is called a pilot.

The pilot sits up in front  
in the cockpit.

A big airplane needs  
a man to check  
on its direction.

This man is the navigator.  
He sits in the cockpit too.

There is a radio man.  
He talks to people on the ground.  
They tell him about the weather.  
They tell him when the pilot  
can land the plane.  
The radio man sits  
in the cockpit too.  
All these men are members  
of the crew of a big airplane.



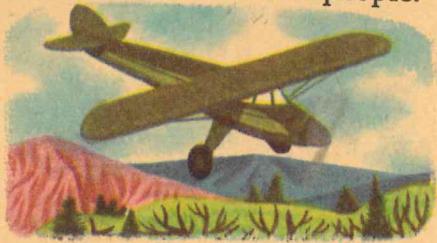
The passengers  
in an airplane sit in the cabin.

They may read or write  
or sleep or talk  
or eat meals from trays.

Or they may look out of  
the windows.

Stewards or hostesses  
make the passengers comfortable  
and serve them meals.  
Their kitchen is very small.  
It is called a galley.

Some airplanes are small.  
They hold one or two people.



Some small airplanes spray fields  
to kill insects.



Some airplanes are big.  
They may hold more than  
a hundred people.

They are called crop dusters.



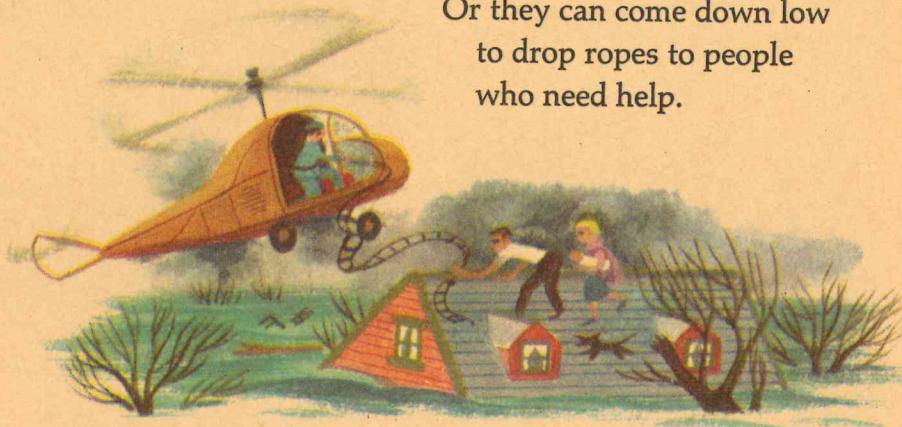
Some airplanes look  
for forest fires.



Some airplanes carry cameras  
to take pictures.

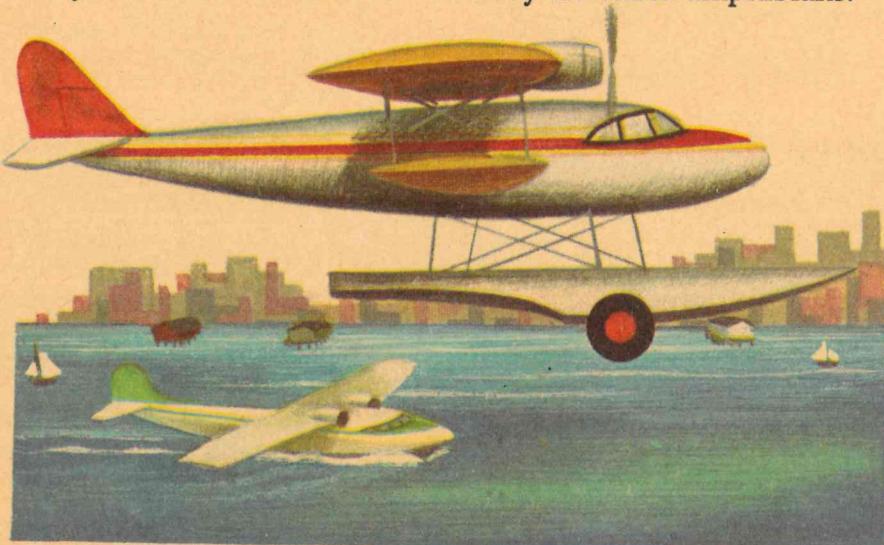


Some helicopters carry mail  
into town from the airport.



Helicopters can land  
in a very small space.  
Or they can come down low  
to drop ropes to people  
who need help.

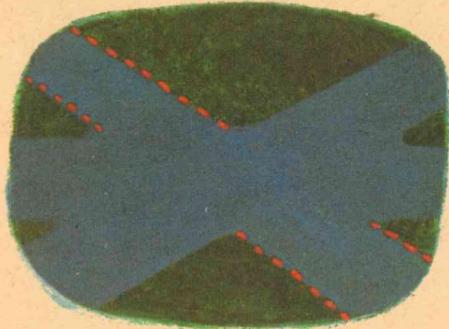
Seaplanes have pontoons  
like small boats  
instead of wheels.  
They land on water.



Some planes can land either  
on water or on the ground.  
They are called amphibians.

# airport

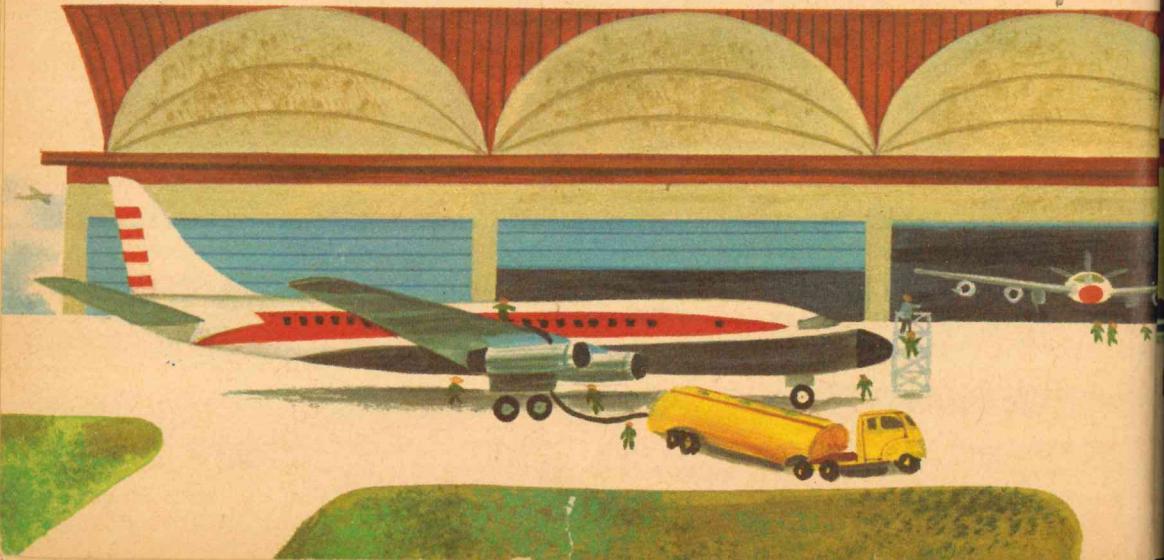
Airplanes land at airports.  
An airport has runways.  
Runways are roads  
for airplanes  
when they are  
on the ground.



At night, colored lights  
show where the runways are.



An airport has a control tower.  
Men in the control tower  
talk to the crew  
in planes by radio.  
(Look up *radio* in the R book.)  
The men in the control tower  
tell the plane crew  
when and where to land  
and take off.





An airport has hangars.  
Airplanes are parked  
in hangars.

Mechanics keep the planes  
in good shape for flying.

An airport has a terminal.  
People who want to travel  
in an airplane  
wait for it  
in the terminal.



# a b c d e f g h i j k l m alphabet

Our alphabet is made up  
of 26 letters.

The letters stand for sounds.  
We put letters together  
to write words.



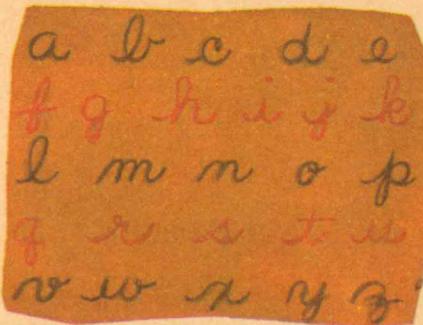
The letters on the blocks  
are small letters.

We use small letters most.  
All the small letters  
are at the top of the page.

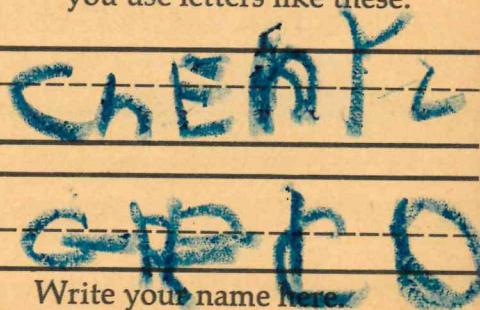
The letters on the sign  
are capital letters.

We use them  
at the beginning of names  
and at the beginning  
of sentences.

We learn to read printed letters  
in books  
and in other places too.



When you write a word  
you use letters like these.



Write your name here

STOP

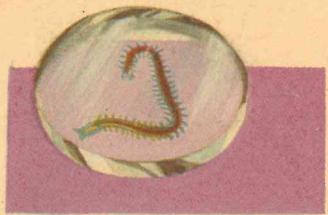
o p q r s t u v w x y z



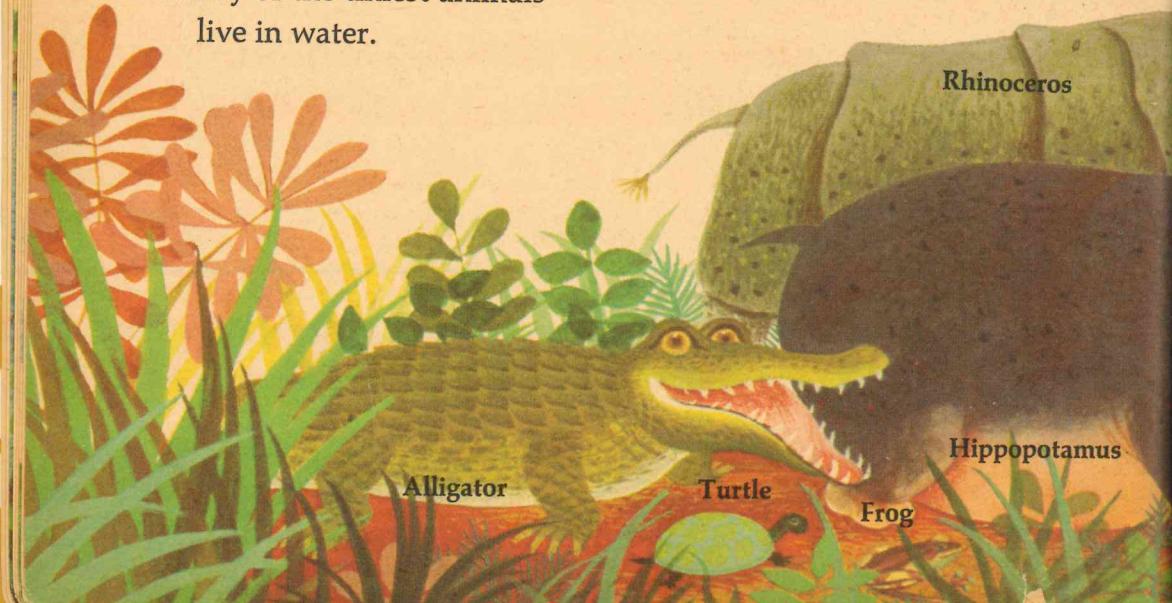
In some other lands  
people use other letters  
to make words.  
They have other alphabets.

# animals

Some living things are plants.  
All the others are animals.  
There are twenty-three  
    animals in these pictures.  
Most animals can move about.  
Most plants cannot.



Some animals are very,  
    very small.  
We need a magnifying glass  
    to see them.  
Many of the tiniest animals  
    live in water.



Two-Spotted Striped  
Ladybird Cucumber Beetle



More than half of all  
the kinds of animals  
are insects.

Luna Moth

There are seven insects  
in these pictures.

The two caterpillars  
    are baby insects.  
The other insects  
    are grown-up.

Grown-up insects  
    have six legs.



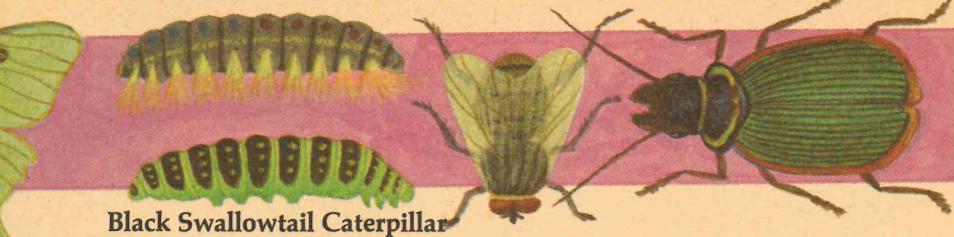
Toucan

Most grown-up insects  
    have wings and can fly.

Gypsy Moth Caterpillar

House Fly

Fiery Searcher



Black Swallowtail Caterpillar

Five of these animals  
are birds.

All birds have feathers.

The turtle and the alligator  
are reptiles.

Reptiles are covered  
with scales.

Camel

Meadowlark

The frog is an amphibian.

Amphibians live  
partly on land,  
partly in the water.

The rabbit and the squirrel  
are mammals.

So are the five biggest  
animals in the picture.

Bluebird

Elephant

Ostrich

Lion

Crowned  
Crane

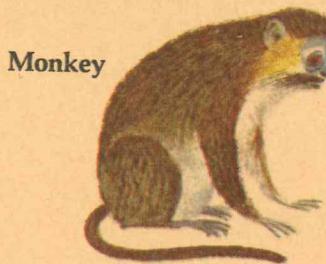
Squirrel

Rabbit

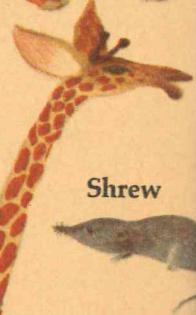
Here are eight  
more mammals.  
Most mammals have  
coats of fur.  
All mammals have  
some hair.  
Most mammals have  
four legs.  
Mammal mothers feed  
their babies milk  
until the babies  
are old enough  
to eat other food.  
Dogs are mammals.  
Cats are mammals.  
Cows and horses and pigs  
are mammals.  
People are mammals, too.  
Whales are the  
biggest mammals.  
Shrews are the littlest.  
Reptiles and amphibians  
have bones.  
So do birds and mammals.



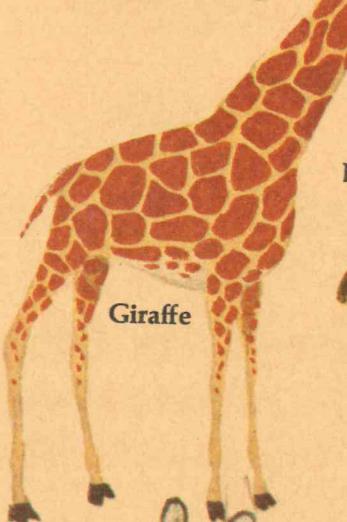
Tiger



Monkey



Shrew



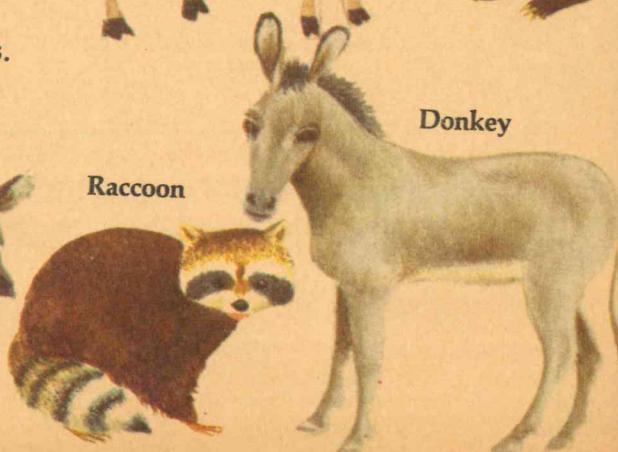
Giraffe



Bear

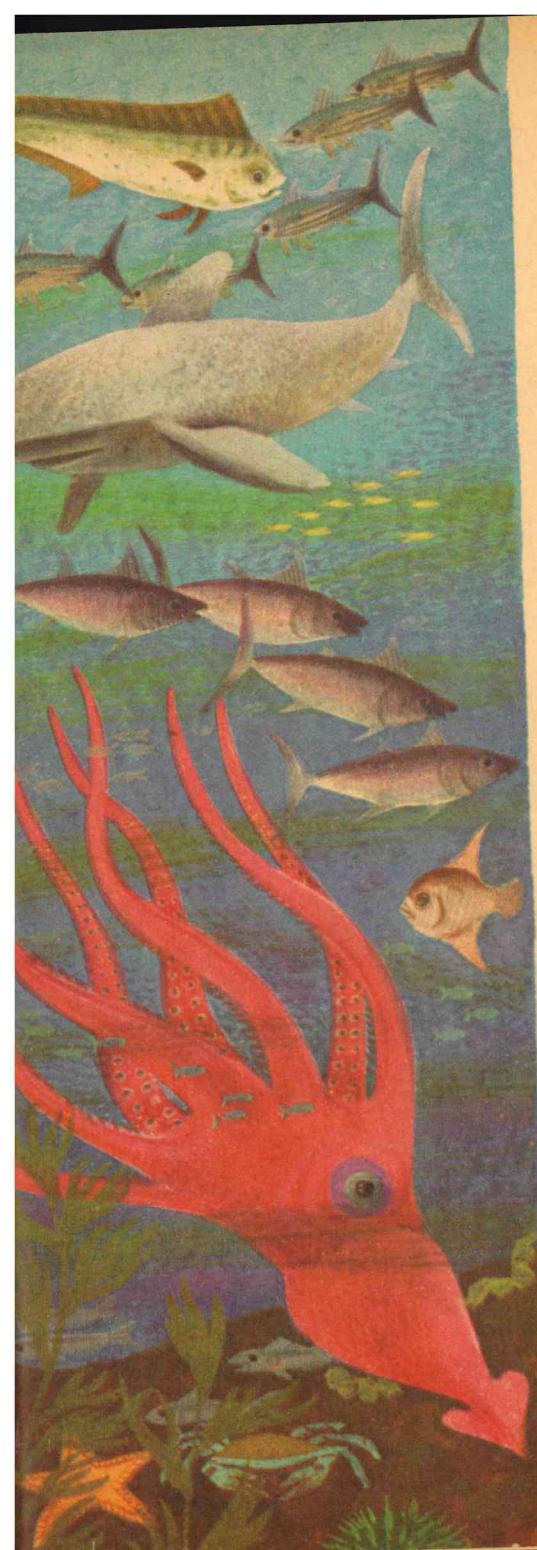


Okapi



Raccoon

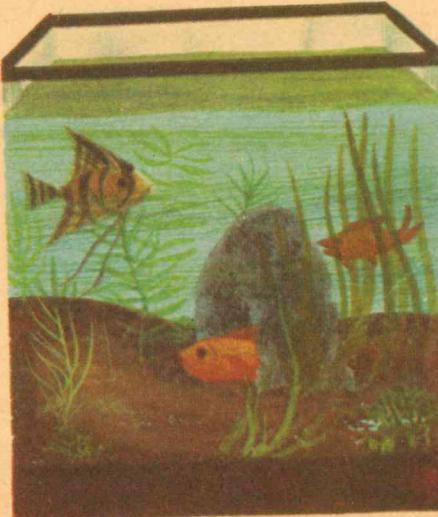
Donkey



Fishes have bones, too.  
All fishes live in water.  
Crabs and clams and  
many other water animals  
have shells instead of bones.  
The red animal is a squid.

## aquarium

An aquarium is a glass home  
for fish and other  
water animals or plants.

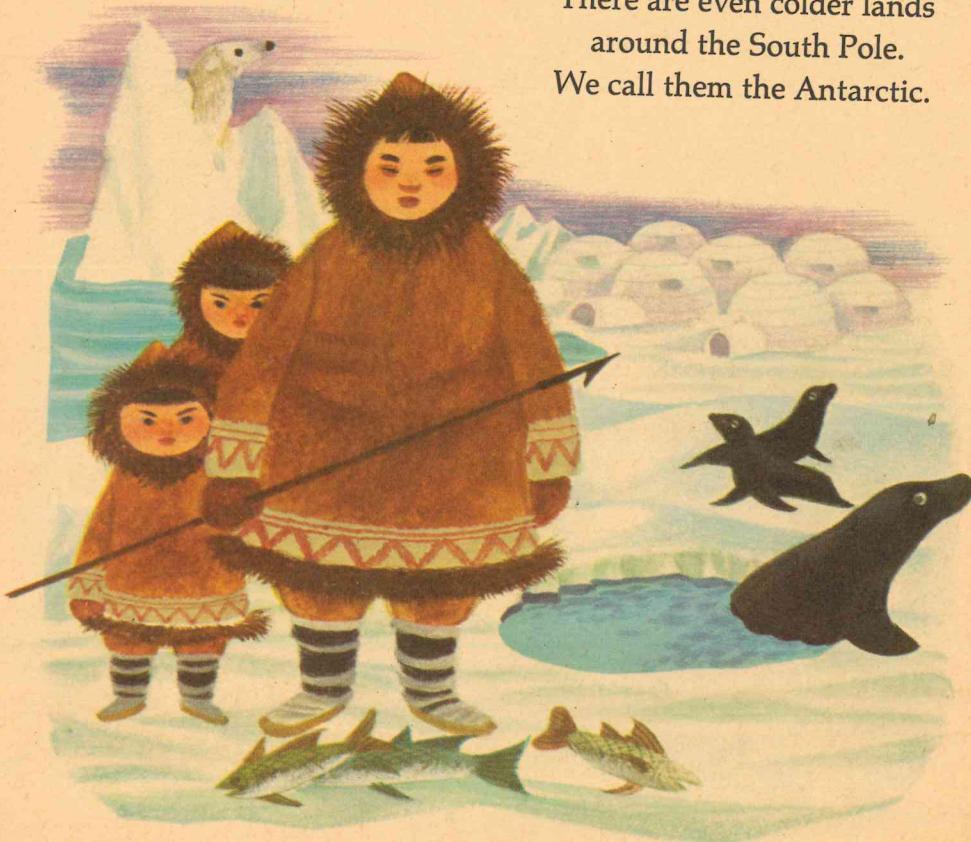


# Arctic

It is cold in the Arctic.  
There are no trees.  
There are few animals.  
There are very few people.  
The plants are small.  
But there is lots  
of ice and snow.



The North Pole is in the Arctic.  
There are even colder lands  
around the South Pole.  
We call them the Antarctic.



# art

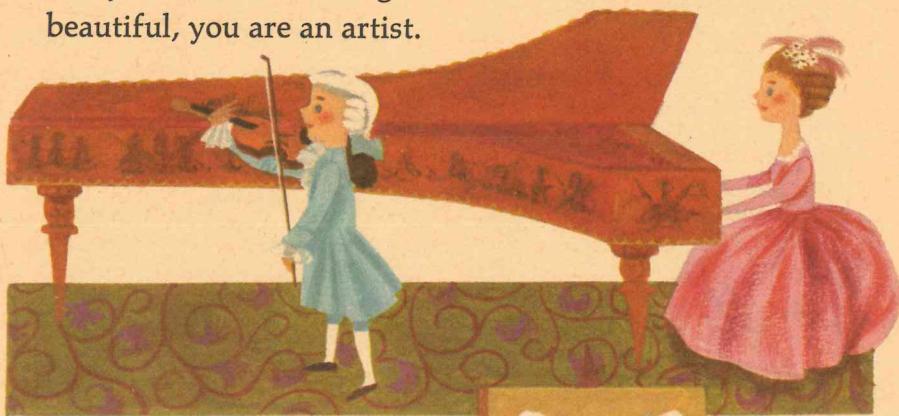
Making something beautiful  
is an art.

You may make something  
beautiful of clay  
or with finger paints  
or with crayons.

You may do a beautiful dance.  
You may sing a song beautifully.

All of these are works of art.

When you make something  
beautiful, you are an artist.



# automobile



An automobile, or car,  
must have an engine.



Most engines are under  
the hood in front.  
Some are at the back  
of the car.  
Most automobile engines  
need gasoline.  
The engine makes the wheels  
turn.  
The turning wheels  
make the car run,  
so we can go for a ride.

The first automobiles were  
called "horseless carriages."  
The automobile did not need  
horses to move it.  
It moved by itself.  
Automobile means  
"self-moving."



The automobile has a frame  
called a chassis.

We say "chass-ee."

The automobile has a body  
which fits on the chassis.

The body has doors  
and windows.

It has seats inside.

It has space for luggage.

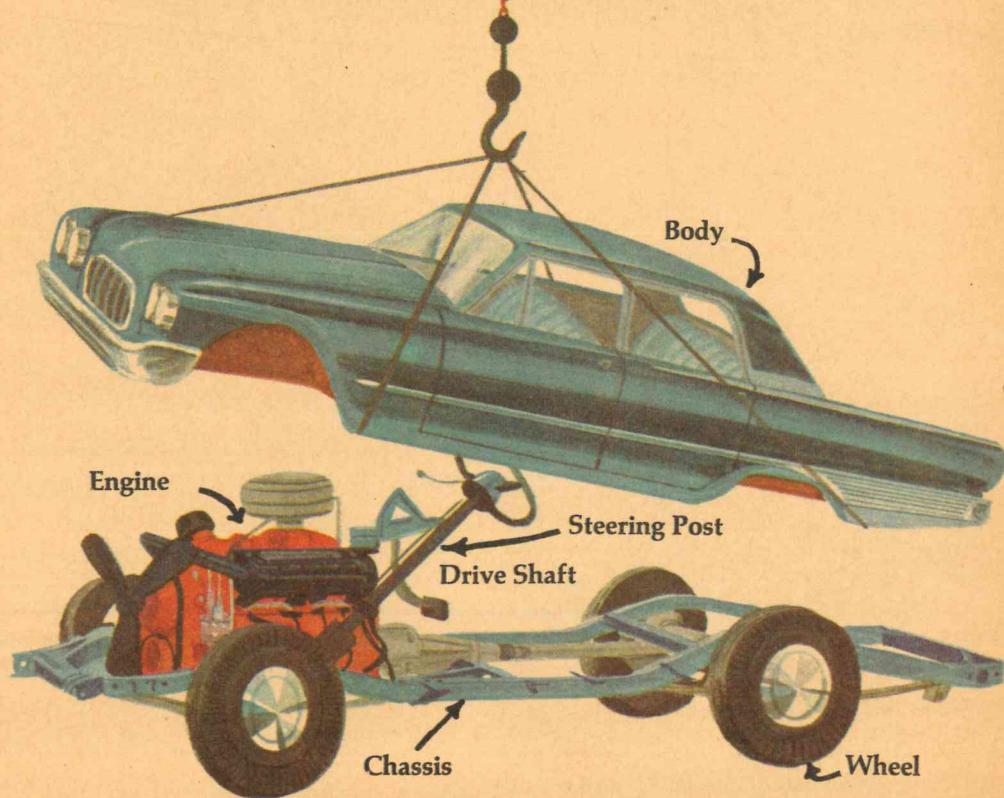
The engine fits on the chassis.

The hood covers the engine.

The steering wheel's post  
leads to the front wheels.

It turns the wheels to the right  
or to the left.

Many automobiles have heaters  
and radios to make trips  
more pleasant.



Many families  
have automobiles  
called station wagons.  
These have lots of room  
for children and groceries  
and other things.

Very small cars are good  
for short trips.  
Their engines do not use  
much gasoline.



Where roads are bad  
special cars are used.  
Some of them are called jeeps.  
They are very strong.



There are special cars  
to carry many kinds of loads.  
We call them trucks and buses.  
(You will find *bus*  
in the B book.)



